

POLIO VACCINES

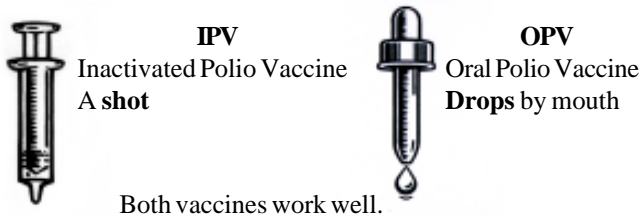
WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

1 Why get vaccinated?

Polio is a disease. It can paralyze (make arms and legs unable to move) or even cause death.







Polio vaccine can prevent polio. Before polio vaccine, thousands of our children got polio every year. Polio vaccine is helping to rid the world of polio. When that happens, no one will ever get polio again, and we will not need polio vaccine.

2 There are 2 kinds of polio vaccine.



3 Which vaccine(s) should my child get and when?

Most children should get 4 doses of polio vaccine at these ages:

- ✓ 2 months IPV 
- ✓ 4 months IPV 
- ✓ 12-18 months OPV  or IPV  (6-18 months when IPV is used)
- ✓ 4-6 years OPV  or IPV 

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends IPV for the 1st and 2nd doses and OPV drops for the 3rd and 4th doses because this gives the advantages of both vaccines.

Getting OPV drops for the first 2 doses is not recommended for most people because of higher risks from OPV for those doses, but is acceptable in very limited situations - for instance, when traveling in certain countries or when the

parent is willing to accept the risks from OPV to reduce the number of injections the child gets. See risks in item 4, below.

Both OPV and IPV may be given at the same time as other vaccines.

4 What are the risks and advantages of each vaccine?

Almost all children who get a total of 4 doses of polio vaccine will be protected from polio.

As with any medicine, vaccines carry a small risk of serious harm, such as a severe allergic reaction (hives, difficulty breathing, shock) or even death.

Most people have no problems from either IPV or OPV.



Risks

- Mild soreness where the shot is given

Other Disadvantages

- Not as good as OPV for protecting the community from polio outbreaks

Advantages

- Cannot cause polio
- Safer for immunizing people with immune system problems and people in close contact with them



Risks

- OPV has caused several cases of polio each year (about 1 case for every 2.4 million doses of vaccine). This can happen to children who get OPV or people who are in close contact with them. The risk of polio is higher with the first dose than with later doses.

Advantages

- No shots
- Protects the community from polio outbreaks better than all IPV
- Better for people traveling to areas where polio is common

The CDC-recommended vaccination schedule greatly reduces the risk of children getting polio from the oral vaccine (OPV) by using IPV for the 1st and 2nd doses. Getting 2 shots of IPV first should protect most people from getting polio from the later doses of OPV. By using OPV for the 3rd and 4th doses it also protects the community from polio outbreaks. And it requires only 2 shots.

5 Some children should get only shots and some should get only drops.

Do NOT use OPV drops if *your child, you, or anyone who takes care of your child*

- Can't fight infections
- Is taking long-term steroids
- Has cancer
- Has AIDS or HIV infection

Do NOT use OPV drops if *you or anyone who takes care of your child* never had polio vaccine.

Do NOT use IPV shots if your child is allergic to the drugs **neomycin, streptomycin, or polymyxin B.**

6 Some children should not get these vaccines or should wait.

Tell your doctor or nurse if your child:

- Ever had a serious reaction after getting polio vaccine
- Now has a moderate or severe illness

7 What if there is a serious reaction?

What should I look for?

- See item 4, on the other side, for possible risks.

What should I do?

- Call a doctor, or get the person to a doctor right away.
- Tell your doctor what happened, the date and time it happened, and when the vaccination was given.
- Ask your doctor, nurse, or health department to file a Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) form, or call VAERS yourself at **1-800-822-7967.**

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The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program

In the rare event that you or your child has a serious reaction to a vaccine, a federal program has been created to help you pay for the care of those who have been harmed.

For details about the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, call **1-800-338-2382** or visit the program's website at <http://www.hrsa.dhhs.gov/bhpr/vicp>

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How can I learn more?

- Ask your doctor or nurse. She/he can give you the vaccine package insert or suggest other sources of information.
- Call your local or state health department's immunization program.
- Contact the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):
 - Call **1-800-232-2522** (English)
 - Call **1-800-232-0233** (Español)
 - Visit the National Immunization Program's website at <http://www.cdc.gov/nip>



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Immunization Program